Dale C. West

THE BEGINNING OF WASKATENAU

The name means a cut in the bank. We settled here in 1913. We drove our stock overland through Montana from the Black Hills in South Dakota. When we reached Alberta we shipped them by train to Edmonton. Then we drove part of our things out on wagons and part we floated down the North Saskatchewan river.

Here at the river bend we found plenty of trees north of the river. And here where we landed we hewed a clearing and made a garden, and eventually we built our home. As settlement continued our ranching activities were confined to our own land along the river bank. When we had enough land cleared we became wheat growers, partly to our sorrow, for when the depression hit this way the price was as low as twenty-nine cents. Stump piles furnished fuel for the heater many winters, and roots furnished plenty of work and exercise during the summer. We made some good lumber of the trees cut during the cold months.

Luckily when the wolf depression called at the door we had a few cows, pigs and chickens to help us over the rough spots. For twenty-seven years I served upon the local school board. I helped to organize the first co-operative store and some farmers organizations. We built a United Church in the town which grew up two miles north when the Canadian National came through to St. Paul de Metis. The work of building roads in the district was a great problem and a long story.

So you will not be suprised when you hear that I

received the nomination to contest the provincial constituency for the Legislative Assembly. Alberta is a great country. It is usually good to those who work. And if one loves his work, there is no more healthful place to live than sunny Alberta.